

**01975**

**1996/12/03**

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BIOGRAPHIC REPORT - CHINA

BIO: GENERAL CHI (PRONOUNCED CHUR) HAOTIAN, PEOPLE'S LIBERATION  
ARMY (PLA) (U)

(U)  
(C/NO) POSITION:

- \* Minister of National Defense and State Councilor since March 1993
- \* Member, People's Republic of China Central Military Commission since 1988
- \* Vice Chairman of the Military Commission since September 1995

(U)  
(C/NO) SIGNIFICANCE:

- \* National-level leader who plays a major role in formulating and implementing Chinese military policies
- \* Represents the PLA on Beijing's top foreign policymaking body, the Communist Party's Foreign Affairs Leading Group
- \* Position as Defense Minister is largely ceremonial and involves hosting high-level foreign officials, military delegations and overseeing the external relations/activities of the PLA

(U)  
(C/NO) POLITICS:

- \* Career political commissar, continually stressed the importance of party control over the military
- \* Member of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee
- \* Representative to the 9th and 11th National Party Congresses
- \* Member of the 13th Central Committee in 1987
- \* Elected to the MC in April 1988 while serving as Chief of the PLA's General Staff and was MC Vice Chairman in September 1995

\*\* desires good military-to-military relations with the United States, viewing them as a practical way of upgrading China's military capabilities

Declassified by: JICPAC, Mr. Finis Jeffery, ONN  
Date declassified by: 27 June 1997  
Authority: E.O. 12958, Sec. 1.5(c)

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ENCLOSURE (2)

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~~(C/UO)~~ PERSONAL DATA:

- \* Son of peasants, born in Zhaoyuan, Shandong Province, 22 July 1929
- \* Took part in more than 100 battles and was wounded five times; he purportedly still has three shell fragments in his body
- \* Decorated nine times and was awarded the title People's Hero, 3d Class, in 1949
- \* Married to Jiang Qingping, a retired naval medical worker; they have two children and two grandchildren
- \* Does not speak English

(U)

~~(C/UO)~~ CAREER:

- \* Joined the PLA in 1944 and was assigned to the legendary 8th Route Army and fought in critical campaigns during both the Sino-Japanese war and the Chinese civil war

- \* 1955 served as director of a regimental political department
- \* 1958-60 attended the Nanjing General Advanced Infantry School and later the Nanjing Military Academy

- \* 1971 Served as its senior political officer when the 27th moved to Beijing — possibly to provide Mao Zedong with loyal troops during the height of the Cultural Revolution
- \* 1973, appointed one of four deputy political commissars of the Beijing Military Region
- \* 1976 Reportedly played a key role in the arrest of the infamous "Gang of Four", which ended the Cultural Revolution and set the stage for Deng Xiaoping's return to power
- \* May 1977 Named deputy director of People's Daily, China's principal propaganda organ.
- \* Nov 1977, named Deputy Chief of the General Staff under Deng Xiaoping and Liu Huaqing
- \* 1982. Disappeared from public view: reporting suggests he fell into political disfavor, while other reporting claims quietly assumed the post of Director of the Political Department at PLA General Headquarters

- \* Nov 1987, appointed Chief of the General Staff. Awarded the rank of general when ranks were restored in October 1988 and named to the MC
- \* During the Tiananmen incident, he reportedly initially resisted using the PLA to quell the student uprising but nonetheless issued the movement orders to PLA units involved in the massacre
- \* He was appointed Minister of Defense and State Councilor in March 1993 and was named a MC Vice Chairman in September 1995

(U) ~~(C/UO)~~ Traveled extensively, visited Russia and Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, Pakistan, Africa, and South America

- \* Led an official delegation to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, with an unofficial stop in Italy

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